10/25/66

Dear Bill and -

Yesterday was one of the best. Penn phoned me from Texas the night before, telling me Ramparts was bringing him to Washington. I (and he) expected he would also fly there. He didn't. So, I waited seven hours and was, I hope, able to accomplish much good in this time. I got him on the newscasts of the largest station in town, interested the two largest papers and some foreign correspondents, and then we had a very pleasant reunion. We gabbed and guzzled, and then we ate, joined by Dave Welsh only after we'd had several hours of privacy. Supper was excellent, with all of us eating fine snails ( I wanted to ask Penn if he'd had them before but didn't). I also had a pleasant chat with Fred Graham, the Supreme Court reporter for the NY Times and the one who has been such a diligent implimenter of Times policy on the books about the assassination. He had read Peter Bart's story in the Times of 10/23 and I commented on it in a way that I gather he agrees with, whatever the Times does or does not say. Yesterday was a bad day for this. Tom Wicker is out of town unti, after the election. We shall see. I tried most of the content of the enclosed letter out on him and his reaction was encouraging. I later decided on the letter.

Often the time put into such a thing as this letter is wasted. We do not know until we try. My stomach, whose exploration is not scheduled for two more weeks, is laboring under the liquid and solid abuse with which it was belabored yesterday and last night, also encouraged me not to begin the day by reading the remained of the new book. So, I'm writing letters, of which these are but a few. I've written my agent in England asking if he'd consider trying to place Penn's book, especially in Italy where I had three publishers competing for mine. My very good agent played them against each other and wound up with what seems like a good deal with Feltrinelli. The other two have whetted appatites, making them more receptive possibly to Penn's. Penn welcomed this yesterday. I shall be writing my agent about this in greater length. He knew about Penn and his book because I had earlier asked him to use his connections with the British press to let it be known that Penn is THE authority on the strange deaths. I earlier understood that this had achieved some effect. I've also let the British correspondents in Washington and the Washington raewspapers and electronic correspondents know. I think that a good word from a "competitor" is helpful. I hope this was the case with Reuters, which filed a story under the encouragement of Ramparts's public-relations man. I spent an hour several months ago with their Washington man. Ramparts found it expedient not to mention the name of Penn's book, which is not helpful.

News from Jerry Agel in NYC is that Harpers says that Manchester's book says three bullets were fired, not two. Better, but not enough.

You have not had time to react to my suggestion, but when Penn liked it yesterday ( and offered to phone Mort Sahl about it; hope he does) I decided to address the enclosed to the President of UCLA. Sorry our finances still dictate that I use carbons my wife can no longer use. This is expensive paper I'm using, but it was given us when an office closed down. So, the copies are not too clear. I'm sending you the first carbon, which is the clearest, and the last, which is the least clear. I'm sending one to Harrison Salisbury also. Let the prexy give Liebeler a copy. If there is anything you can do with this, I leave it to you whether you wait until he has had a chance to answer. I personally feel ( again Penn agrees) that we do not want to rush. Let the situation stew a little. When we were first married, longer ago that I like to recall, it was during depression days and we had little most of the time, although my free-lancing sometimes was quite remunerative. Once a week we'd start a new pot of soup, French style, over the pilot light once it was cooked. By the end of the week it was so much better. It will sell more of my books if we rush with this, but I think the ultimate truth will be better served if we take each step with care. Of course, if you can get a good chance with Sahl or something like that immediately, then all bests interests are best served, for what we seek is calling Liebeler to book. Or, may I say, making an honest man out of him, if not by "religion" then by public persuasion. Penn says that Ray is the best way of approaching Sahl. He will not like some of the content. I was aware of this when I wrote it. The time has come for a little more of the truth about the various books to be out. You will soon see more on this.

twixt and tween the letters and other things, like mailing out today's orders, we have gotten out a complete carbon of WHITEWASH II. This does not mean that there will not be changes. I plan, for example, to change the form and content of the conclusions, to add a couple of paragraphs to the Epilogue, and I am not going to approach the colonel until the last minute. But for the most part, it is complete, save for those few changes I'm making as I read it. We decided early this morning when I returned with those sections my artist had that my wife, who is the uninterfered-wtih custodian, would shift her chores to me and make up this set. It is the only extra complete one we have. Sorry we could not get this done until after the mail left, even though I took over some of her order-filling function. I am anxious to get your comment as fast as possible. She has already typed the first hundred pages of it for reproduction by offset. I do not believe, especially with the content, thatI'll get a reguler publisher and I doubt if one would rush it as I believe it must be rushed. I'd like your opinion on this also. When I say you I also mean Maggie.

If there are changes you think should be made, if you can make a note of them it will be quite helpful. Please extend this to whatever you think is unclear, wrong or in need of amplification.

Ishall also have to make arrangement to have a lawyer read it. I hope I can do that here. I believe I can, but whether in a hurry is another matter.

And, of course, please do exercise the tightest control over it. I believe there are parts of it that can be published immediately in magazine form. Also, I do not want what has alread happenai to some of it, that it be appropriated by others and especially by those lazy men who do not try and give things their proper meaning.

It is possible I will not have an empty box, like from stationery, that will exactly fit this. In that event I shall improvise what I hope will be a secure package and I hope you can also when you return it. Now that I have an Italian publisher I should have a copy for him. Word of its accepetance elsewhere should have a good feedback, especially with Feltrinelli's reputation for imagination and daring (which is not in accord with my experience with him- he wouldn't even read the damned thing 19 months ago when it was pressed upon him by his own agent).

A new friend in NYC has phoned to say that he is shipping some NCR paper which will make automatic copies. Possibly we can then arrange for the Xeroxing of the first sheet to make these sets complete. Meanwhile, the Xeroxed copies of the rough unretyped draft (what she is doing is really retyping the rough draft, if this does not confuse you) supposedly mailed from New York Friday have not yet arrived. I have other needs for these. And this is faster and less costly to ship.

Whether or not you like it, and I of course hope you do, at least you will have an idea of what might await Liebeler if we are a little patient.

Please do make it as fast as you both can, for I do want this book to be as good as what I regard as the urgent need for speed will allow. Especially because of those new documents to which Liebeler is to get access. I'd like this very much in the news before that happens. Then we'll see what kind of stuff he looks for or finds, and then we'll better know how and what he is looking for if he comes up with different stuff.

In my last letter I forgot to mention one of those things I may regret having earlier told Lifton about in the hope he'd put it to good use. On his promise to make it available to me for my first use, I told him of a Wolper property. He claims to haveconnections there. This is something I discovered in the archive, I told Penn about it yesterday for a different reason. There is an 8 mm film labelled DCA apparently pieced together from amateur film of the motorcade in Dallas. It is entitled "President Kennedy's Last Hour". The 8 mm version, obsviously, was edited. The clips might be of great importance. Wolper condensed the 8mm and turned out a 15 mm film. I have seen both. There are several quite interesting possibilities. There is a badly-exposed section of the vital moments, taken from within Dealey Plaza. I believe that, examined

~~a frame at a time,~~
a frame at a time, it might reveal interesting and new information about the assassination, especially about when and where it began. It may also be very valuable about the grassy knoll. There are other things about it in the new book. In the course of time I might be able to get this through Metromedia people. M. owns Wolper. I am anxious to go over the footage they have in NYC that they taped as their aired their assassination story. I can do this when I can get the time. The viewing time alone I'm told will take more than two days. I would also like very much to go over the footage taken by Couch, Underwood and others right outside the bldg and at the moment immediately after the assassination. That, too, would take both time and doing. What I'd prefer to be able to do with this is to interest, let us say, metromedia, in getting this footage and letting Penn and me sit down and go over it a frame at a time. That will take hours, but I've been convinced from the first that it will show things and people somebody was very anxious not to know about. Penn knows the local people better than I.

Yesterday I got a pair of aerial photosfrom him that bear very much on what I've been saying about the Altgens picture and where he stood when he took it. Without taking the time to study it out, I believe even more what I have been saying about this. From Exhibit 354, my page 210, and Penns good shot (Lifton never sent the ones he promised) Altgens was near the fifth road stripe when he took his shot. This alone destroys the entire Report and is a prima facie case of conspiracy to kill, conspiracy to misrepresent, and you take it from there. Again, I shall say nothing more about this until the book is out. Ill now have to have more pictures in the appendix, Penn's opposite 354, for example, and others you'll find referred to.

Now to making the package, which I'll send by air and heavily insured, and to other letters.

Sincerely,

Harold